IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4, 11, 14, and 20-28; add new claims 29-40; and, amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of analyzing expressed opinions comprising the steps of:

parsing words of at least one text-based document comprising opinions as parts of speech tag sequences, wherein said opinions comprise at least one of sentiments and connotations towards a topic, and wherein parts of speech tag sequences of said opinions comprise regularly occurring patterns;

extracting regular expressions from ~~the~~ said document by matching at least one regular expression rule with ~~the parsed~~ said parts of speech tag sequences, wherein said regular expression rule comprises said regularly occurring patterns; ~~and~~

categorizing ~~extracted regular expressions into representative~~ said regular expressions as said opinions within categories of semantic orientation ~~by~~, said categorizing comprising analyzing ~~the~~ words comprising ~~the extracted~~ said regular expressions; and

graphically displaying said categories of semantic orientation, wherein said displaying comprises displaying relative proportions of said opinions in said categories of semantic orientation.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~extracted opinions are characterized by~~ said categories of semantic orientation comprise ~~the polarity of their sentiment into at least~~ positive sentiment and negative ~~categories~~ sentiment.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the representative~~ said categories of semantic orientation comprise ~~are identified as~~ favorable, unfavorable, and indifferent.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a collection of regular expression rules ~~indicative of expressed opinions~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of ~~associating expressed~~ organizing said opinions ~~with topics to which the expressed opinions relate~~ into groups, wherein said opinions within each of said groups each comprise a similar topic.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising the step of~~ wherein said categorizing of said regular expressions comprises accessing a natural language database to determine ~~the~~ semantic orientations of said words ~~of a~~ comprising said regular expressions.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising the step of accessing a lexical reference to~~ wherein said categorizing of said regular expressions comprises identifying ~~possible~~ at least one of synonyms ~~or~~ and antonyms for said words ~~of a~~ comprising said regular expressions.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising the step of determining a predominant connotation of an extracted regular expression by performing at least one of the following steps in relation to words of the regular expression: (i) determining the semantic orientation of the words; (ii) determining the semantic orientation of at least one of synonyms and antonyms for the words; and (iii)~~ wherein said categorizing of said regular expressions comprises determining ~~the~~ semantic orientations of morphological stems for ~~the~~ said words comprising said regular expressions.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

parsing words of at least one text-based document comprising opinions as parts of speech tag sequences, wherein said opinions comprise at least one of sentiments and connotations towards a topic, and wherein parts of speech tag sequences of said opinions comprise regularly occurring patterns;

extracting regular expressions from ~~the~~ said document by matching at least one regular expression rule with ~~the parsed~~ said parts of speech tag sequences, wherein said regular expression rule comprises said regularly occurring patterns; ~~and~~

categorizing ~~extracted regular expressions into representative~~ said regular expressions as said opinions within categories of semantic orientation ~~by~~, said categorizing comprising analyzing ~~the~~ words comprising ~~the extracted~~ said regular expressions; and

graphically displaying said categories of semantic orientation, wherein said displaying comprises displaying relative proportions of said opinions in said categories of semantic orientation.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 10, wherein ~~extracted opinions are characterized by~~ said categories of semantic orientation comprise ~~the polarity of their sentiment into at least~~ positive sentiment and negative ~~categories~~ sentiment.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 10, wherein ~~the representative~~ said categories of semantic orientation comprise ~~are identified as~~ favorable, unfavorable, and indifferent.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 10, further comprising the step of storing a collection of regular expression rules ~~indicative of expressed opinions~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 10, further comprising the step of ~~associating expressed~~ organizing said opinions ~~with topics to which the expressed opinions relate~~ into groups, wherein said opinions within each of said groups each comprise a similar topic.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 10, ~~further comprising the step of~~ wherein said categorizing of said regular expressions comprises accessing a natural language database to determine ~~the~~ semantic orientations of said words ~~of a~~ comprising said regular expressions.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 10, ~~further comprising the step of accessing a lexical reference to~~ wherein said categorizing of said regular expressions comprises identifying ~~possible~~ at least one of synonyms ~~or~~ and antonyms for said words ~~of a~~ comprising said regular expressions.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 10, ~~further comprising the step of determining a predominant connotation of an extracted regular expression by performing at least one of the following steps in relation to words of the regular expression: (i) determining the semantic orientation of the words; (ii) determining the semantic orientation of at least one of synonyms and antonyms for the words; and (iii)~~ wherein said categorizing of said regular expressions comprises determining ~~the~~ semantic orientations of morphological stems for ~~the~~ said words comprising said regular expressions.

20-28. (Cancelled).

29. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising marking said opinions in said document with classification tags, wherein each of said classification tags correspond to one of said categories of semantic orientation.

30. (New) The computer program product of claim 10, further comprising marking said opinions in said document with classification tags, wherein each of said classification tags correspond to one of said categories of semantic orientation.

31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said graphically displaying comprises displaying said categories of semantic orientation using at least one of a pie-chart and a bar-chart.

32. (New) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein said graphically displaying comprises displaying said categories of semantic orientation using at least one of a pie-chart and a bar-chart.

33. (New) A method of analyzing expressed opinions comprising the steps of:

parsing words of at least one text-based document comprising opinions as parts of speech tag sequences, wherein said opinions comprise at least one of sentiments and connotations towards a topic, and wherein parts of speech tag sequences of said opinions comprise regularly occurring patterns;

extracting regular expressions from said document by matching at least one regular expression rule with said parts of speech tag sequences, wherein said regular expression rule comprises said regularly occurring patterns;

categorizing said regular expressions as said opinions within categories of semantic orientation, said categorizing comprising analyzing words comprising said regular expressions; and

at least one of:

marking said opinions in said document with classification tags, wherein each of said classification tags correspond to one of said categories of semantic orientation, and

graphically displaying said categories of semantic orientation, wherein said displaying comprises at least one of:

displaying relative proportions of said opinions in said categories of semantic orientation, and

displaying said categories of semantic orientation using at least one of a pie-chart and a bar-chart.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said categories of semantic orientation comprise positive sentiment and negative sentiment.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said categories of semantic orientation comprise favorable, unfavorable, and indifferent.

36. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of storing a collection of regular expression rules.

37. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of organizing said opinions into groups, wherein said opinions within each of said groups each comprise a similar topic.

38. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said categorizing of said regular expressions comprises accessing a natural language database to determine semantic orientations of said words comprising said regular expressions.

39. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said categorizing of said regular expressions comprises accessing a lexical reference to identify at least one of synonyms and antonyms for said words comprising said regular expressions.

40. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said categorizing of said regular expressions comprises determining semantic orientations of morphological stems for ~~the~~ said words comprising said regular expressions.